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BULLETIN No. 1.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

DIVISION OF PUBLICATIONS.

INDEX

TO THE

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

FOR

THE YEARS 1837 TO 1893, INCLUSIVE.



WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1896.

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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE,
DIVISION OF PUBLICATIONS,
Washington, D. C., January 30, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit for publication an index to the annual reports of the United States Department of Agriculture for the years 1837-1893, inclusive. Inasmuch as this important work is but the beginning of an index system to the publications of the Department, which certainly should be and will be eventually carried out, the principal work in the preparation of which it seems must devolve upon this division, I recommend the publication of the present work as a bulletin of this division.

The details of the work were confided to Mr. George F. Thompson, whose diligence and intelligence in the performance of this duty call for my warm commendation.

Very respectfully,

GEO. WM. HILL,
Chief of Division of Publications.

Hon. J. STERLING MORTON,
Secretary.

PREFATORY NOTE.

The want of a satisfactory index to the publications of the Department of Agriculture has been long felt and must have occasioned serious loss of time to those who have had occasion to seek therein for information. The attempts made hitherto to supply such a want have been confined to the Annual Report, but though such an index was published, as was also a supplement thereto supposed to cover these reports up to and including 1886, these publications have been found so unsatisfactory for the purpose for which they were designed as to have fallen into almost complete disuse.

The indexes for the annual reports having been for the last six years prepared in this division, an attempt was made to prepare, for the convenience of those in the office, a card index which should further supplement the publications already referred to and bring them up to date. These efforts to supplement this great want, so essential to an efficient publication system, only served to emphasize the necessity of a complete and systematic index which should eventually cover all the publications of the Department, and the existence of which would unquestionably be of sufficient value in future to the workers in this Department alone, to say nothing of those numerous other persons engaged in agricultural inquiry who would gladly and frequently consult such a work were it made available, to compensate many times over for the time and expense involved in its preparation. Considering the facilities at our command it was, however, considered wise to confine the work in the beginning to the agricultural reports only, believing that this once accomplished, the cooperation of other divisions could be secured for indexing their own publications, so that the work of a complete index might be eventually achieved without any very serious addition to the force.

While the present index goes back to 1837, from which date to 1848, inclusive, the report formed an integral part of the Report of the Commissioner of Patents, its first appearance as a separate volume, though still as a part of the Patent Office report, being in 1849, it has not been carried further than the year 1893, for the reason that the year succeeding, 1894, a new departure was made with reference to the annual reports of the Department. In accordance with paragraph 2, section 73, of the act providing for the public printing and binding and the distribution of public documents, approved January 12, 1895, the Annual Report of the Department was prepared in two separate and independent parts, each complete in itself, one containing the Secretary's annual report and the purely executive reports of the several chiefs of bureaus,

divisions, and offices, and the other consisting of a collection of special articles upon subjects of interest to practical farmers, prepared especially for their reading, and restricting all executive matter therein to a republication of the Secretary's report. This latter publication is issued under the title *The Yearbook of The Department of Agriculture*, and the new departure, judging by the experience of the *Yearbook of 1894*, has been received with general commendation and very gratifying appreciation. It may be said, however, that the new form of report calls, if possible, still more urgently for complete and thorough indexing and the publication of a general index at intervals of not exceeding five years.

Mere incidental mention of a subject has not given it a place in the present index. The object has been to confine all references to cases where some actual information is given on the subject referred to. All references in the present index to subjects previous to 1862 are necessarily to the Patent Office reports. Since and including 1862, when the Department of Agriculture was separated entirely from the jurisdiction of the Patent Office, references are to the reports of this Department.

So far as is known no United States Government report in relation to agriculture occurred prior to that made by Henry L. Ellsworth, Commissioner of Patents, in his report of 1837.

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